Is God a Nepotist?

Dictionary.com defines nepotism as "patronage bestowed or favoritism shown on the basis of family relationship, as in business and politics."

Merriam-Webster defines it as "favoritism (as in appointment to a job) based on kinship."

• Some synonyms (similar meaning - Andrea) for nepotism: *chauvinism*, *cronyism*, *favoritism*, bias, favor, nonobjectivity, onesidedness, partiality, partisanship, prejudice, tendentiousness, self-partiality, inclination, leaning, prejudgment... and the list goes on.

So before everyone gets defensive, please understand that the title of this writing is a question, not a statement. I have been thinking on this topic for a while; specifically for our fellowship. If we look around the room, what do we have? Families, right? How did we all get here?

John 6:44: 'God drew us'

But did He call us individually or did he call Andrea and the rest of us ended up here eventually? Did God call the spiritual family leaders only — Chauncey, Bob, Jim, Jake, Vince - then the rest of the family just fell in line? Maybe one person was called because God wanted one or two of us but the rest of us are here out of convenience, boredom, curiosity or along for the ride.

Psalm 139:

- 1. O LORD, You have searched me and have known me.
- 2. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off.
- 3. You measure my going about and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways,
- 4. For there is not a word on my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, You know it altogether.
- 5. You have enclosed me behind and in front, and laid Your hand upon me.
- 6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.
- 7. Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence?
- 8. If I go up into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in the grave, behold, You are there.
- 9. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the farthest parts of the sea,
- 10. Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.
- 11. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me shall be night;"
- 12. Even the darkness does not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; as is the darkness, so is the light to You,
- 13. For You have possessed my reins; You have knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14. I will praise You, for I am awesomely and wonderfully made; Your works are marvelous and my soul knows it very well.

- 15. My substance was not hidden from You when I was made in secret and intricately formed in the lowest parts of the earth.
- 16. Your eyes did see my substance, yet being unformed; and in Your book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there were none of them.
- 17. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!
- 18. If I should count them, they are more than the sand; when I awake, I am still with You. (A Faithful Version)

What does this mean - it means God knows everything and does everything for a reason!! God 'knitted us together in our mother's womb!' How great are God's thoughts to our carnal minds — "they are more than the sand..." All of us know that there is a lot of sand. A simple Google search provides a rough estimate of seven quintillion, five hundred quadrillion grains. How about that number for our carnal minds!

There are also a lot of stars. In the 2019 article by Bob Berman titled "The ever-lasting question: more sand or stars" concluded that they are about equal! I believe that 100%! That is definitely something God would do and cause to be known.

Just how far back do God's thoughts go? How far back do God's thoughts go in relation to creating us?

Jeremiah 1: 5. "Before I formed you in the belly I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb I consecrated you..." (A Faithful Version)

How much does God love us?

Romans 5: 8. But God commends His own love to us because, when we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (<u>A Faithful Version</u>)

He sacrificed His only Son for every human being that has and will ever live; knowing full well we would all be sinners!

Ephesians 2:4. But God, Who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5. Even when we were dead in *our* trespasses, has made *us* alive together with Christ. *For* you have been saved by grace.) (A Faithful Version)

Let's get to the point utilizing a few examples we are all familiar with; at least in part. Although I feel I have a good base knowledge of all of you, how you grew up, how you got to where you are; I admit, I do not know everything. Guess who does? God! Let's start with Robby and Kirsten. How did a lower intelligence man get blessed to marry a high IQ African? Was it coincidence that two people who grew

up a world apart met in their 20's, got married and have three children (and counting)? Jim is blessed to have five smart, good looking children. Bob and Andrea are blessed to have three grandchildren to be the first of our fellowship born into God's truth. Chauncey and Jo are blessed to know all of us. Just kidding. Erika and I met after growing up 3,000 miles apart and being more than 11 years apart in age. Needless to say, Erika and I had our share of troubles. Today we are proud to say we are baptized into God's truth.

What sets us apart from worldly Christianity? We all believe and know God's truth! This is a blessing beyond measure guys! Coincidence, I think not. My carnal mind cannot decipher this but maybe we can have a slight semblance of understanding God's plans. He planned this group. God is possible of anything so consider this, He might have planned this group from the beginning of time.

Now, to the question, is God a nepotist? The answer is certainly no.

Isaiah 55: 8. "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9. "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (<u>A Faithful Version</u>)

Our carnal minds cannot comprehend God's thoughts. I'm guessing we could go clear back to Adam and Eve and find that this group was planned. Maybe even before man was created. Each one of us is called and meant to be here and God caused it to happen. He didn't just plan that a group would be here. He didn't just plan for some of us to be here, but all of us. Thinking deeper, he planned for some of us to go through trials and separations. We have several divorcees in the room. All God's plan. Jake is the only member who grew up here. God's plan. God intended for us to be right where we are, right in this moment, and planned everything to happen before we were born. None of us are just 'along for the ride' or here because of "favoritism based on kinship." We are part of His plan and we should not take that lightly. Love you guys.